



**PRESS RELEASE**  
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**For Immediate Release**

April 21, 2005

**TAMPA MAN CONVICTED OF DEALING DRUGS IN MANATEE COUNTY**

Tampa, Florida - A jury in U.S. District Court today found Michael A. Horne, age 32, guilty on all counts of a five-count indictment charging him with conspiring to distribute, and to possess with the intent to distribute, cocaine; possessing cocaine with the intent to distribute it; possessing cocaine with the intent to distribute it within one thousand (1,000) feet of a public elementary school; carrying a firearm during and in relation to, and possessing a firearm in furtherance of, a drug trafficking crime; and being a felon in the possession of a firearm. The defendant, who has eight prior felony convictions, faces a maximum term of imprisonment of 75 years and a \$4 million fine. Horne's sentencing hearing is scheduled for July 29, 2005 at 10:30 a.m. before the Honorable William J. Castagna, United States Senior District Judge.

According to the testimony and evidence presented at trial, the defendant was in the process of delivering more than a quarter kilogram of cocaine to a residence in Bradenton, when he was arrested by members of the Manatee County Sheriff's Office. A search of the defendant's car led to the discovery not only of the cocaine, but a loaded .9 mm pistol

as well.

The case was investigated by the Manatee County Sheriff's Office and the Drug Enforcement Administration, with the assistance of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Christopher P. Tuite, Tampa Narcotics Section.

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